

## Menominee Tribal Legislature organizational meeting

**Delabreau selected to represent the Menominee Indian Tribe as Chairperson**

**Trilby Beauprey McIntosh, NACR**  
Menominee Nation News

On Monday, February 09, 2004 the organizational meeting of the Menominee Tribal Legislature was held in the Ada Deer/Blackhawk rooms of the Menominee Casino-Bingo-Hotel in Keshena, Wisconsin.

A drumming signaled the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Presiding over the ceremonies for the organizational meeting was Chief Justice Robert M. Kittecon. Chief Justice Kittecon took roll call.

Newly elected Tribal Legislatures, *Stephanie Awonohopay, Annmarie Johnson and Theodore “Tony” Warrington* joined Legislatures, *Joan R. Delabreau, Gary J. Besaw, Laurie Boivin, Michael Chapman, Laurie Reiter and Anthony Waupochick, Sr.* for their first order of business as new Legislators.

Drum group, Wind Eagle members, Worden “Shane” Webster (known by his Menominee name, Maech Awaesah meaning, Big (Great) Bear, Earl “Schooch” Madosh, Jeff Fish and Steve Quasius provided the flag song at the beginning of the meeting.

The traditional Menominee prayer was offered by David J. Grignon “Nahwahquaw” of the Historic Preservation Department.

Chief Justice Kittecon administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Legislators, Stephanie Awonohopay, Annmarie F. Johnson and Theodore “Tony” Warrington.

The Wind Eagle drummers pro-



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**Menominee Tribal Legislative officers include, (front row, l-r) Gary Besaw, Secretary, Vice-Chairman Laurie Boivin and Chairperson, Joan Delabreau. Other Legislators include (middle row l-r) Laurie Reiter, Stephanie Awonohopay, Annmarie Johnson, Anthony “Tony” Waupochick, (back row) Michael Chapman, and Theodore “Tony” Warrington.**

vided a *new* Honor Song, written by Maech Awaesah. Maech Awaesah explained, the song carries the message, the Menominee people are still living here, still living the way of life and doing what the Menominee people do through meetings such as this and the pow-wows. He further explained the song says the Menominee people can still live that way, if the Menominee people try. The song exhorts Menominee families to raise their children to be proud. He said, “We are native people, we still need to do our traditions.” The song was beautiful with its distinct Menominee words and strong drum beats. Evident approval for the song was demonstrated as Nahwahquaw danced

throughout the song. If you found yourself dancing to the song this is exactly as it should be. Nahwahquaw, in showing his approval through dance, was to transcend to the people so that others danced with him.

When the Honor Song was completed Chief Justice Kittecon commented, “I was watching how quiet the little ones are.” Their quietness was in response to the drumming and the song.

The business of the organizational meeting continued with the setting of the salary for the Chairperson and it was unanimously agreed, by the Legislators, to keep the Tribal Chairperson’s salary at its present rate of \$85,000 per year.

The next order of business was

to elect the Tribal Chairperson. In a five to four vote, Joan Delabreau was re-elected to the Tribal Chairperson’s position.

The Vice-Chair was up for votes next and Legislator, Laurie Boivin was elected to the Vice-Chairperson’s position.

In a five to four vote, Legislator Gary Besaw was elected to the position of Secretary for the Legislature.

Newly elected officers of the Menominee Indian Tribal Legislature shared comments with the audience.

Joan Delabreau expressed her pleasure to be voted to represent the Menominee Indian Tribe. She

**See SWEARING IN pg.11**